

20 January, 2004

Dear Interested Party --

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is hosting a Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop on Thursday, February 5 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm in the Bay View Room at the Monterey Beach Resort Hotel in Seaside. I hope you and your employees will attend.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together sanctuary user groups to discuss issues pertaining to responsibly viewing California's marine wildlife. It is specifically focused on issues of concern for recreational and commercial boaters, kayak shops and guides, whale watching and sightseeing vessel operators, dive shops and dive vessel operators, and small aircraft operators. **We need your input on what the Sanctuary Program can do to achieve our mutual goal of safe and responsible wildlife viewing activities in the marine environment.**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) California National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Office of Protected Resources has produced a draft handbook, "Responsibly Watching California's Marine Wildlife: A Handbook for Ocean Users." We would like your comments on this draft document so we can make it the best possible product for marine wildlife viewing operators.

The workshop will include a plenary session including a discussion of the economic value of marine ecotourism as well as the challenges arising when people and wild marine life come together. Break-out sessions with round table discussions will follow. The interested general public are also invited. Light refreshments will be served.

Please review the attached draft document and RSVP for the workshop by February 1, 2004. The handbook is also available on the web at:

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/national/wwhandbook.pdf>

Contact workshop coordinator Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145 or by email at [michele.roest@noaa.gov](mailto:michele.roest@noaa.gov), or call our main office at (831) 647-4201. Please let us know how many from your organization will attend.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. I look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hayes  
Education & Outreach Coordinator